

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PRETOR 05845 221404Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 MCT-01 /093 W
----- 092936 /44

R 221319Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6489
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

UNCLAS PRETORIA 5845

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SF, PINT
SUBJECT: SENTENCES FOR SASO NINE

REF: PRETORIA 5755

1. ON DECEMBER 21, JUDGE BOSHOFF PASSED SENTENCES ON SASO NINE. SIX WERE SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS' IMPRISONMENT ON TWO COUNTS UNDER TERRORISM ACT, ONE OF SIX YEARS, AND ONE OF FOUR, AND OTHER THREE WERE GIVEN MINIMUM FIVE YEARS UNDER ONE COUNT. THOSE GIVEN TEN YEARS WERE ALLOWED FOUR YEARS OF SECOND COUNT TO RUN CONCURRENTLY, IF EFFECT MEANING SIX YEARS IMPRISONMENT. THOSE RECEIVING TEN YEARS SENTENCES WERE SATHS COOPER, MUNTU MYEZA, MOSIOUA LEKOTA, AUBREY MOKOAPE, NKWENI NKOMO AND PHANDELANI NEFOLOVHODWE. RECEIVING FIVE YEARS WERE KABORANE SEDIBE, ZITULELE CINDI AND STRINI MOODLEY.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, BOSHOFF TOLD COURT THAT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PRETOR 05845 221404Z

ACCUSED HAD ACTED AS "MEMBERS OF THE BLACK....COMMUNITY," BELIEVING THEY WERE VICTIMS OF AN OPPRESSIVE POLITICAL SYSTEM. AS THEY WERE NOT CRIMINAL TYPES, THE SENTENCES PASSED WERE NOT MEANT TO REFORM THEM BUT ONLY TO DETER OTHER LIKEMINDED PERSONS FROM COMMITTING SIMILAR ACTS.

3. SEVERAL OF ACCUSED AS WELL AS THEIR COUNSEL REPORTEDLY SPOKE IN MITIGATION PRIOR TO SENTENCING. OF INTEREST IS STATEMENT BY MOKOAPE WHO SAID SASO AND BPC'S CONDEMNATIONS OF PASS LAWS, MIGRATORY LABOR, VIOLENCE OF INCIDENTS SUCH AS SHARPEVILLE AND LANGA, AND DEPRIVATIONS FACED BY BLACKS WERE NOT DISPUTED AS TO THEIR BASIC TRUTH EITHER "INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THIS COURT."

4. TRIAL, WHICH HAS RAISED GREAT DEAL OF INTEREST LOCALLY, WAS ATTENDED IN THIS FINAL DAY BY LARGE CROWD. COURT ROOM ITSELF WAS OVERFLOWING AND THERE WERE SEVERAL MINOR SCUFFLES OUTSIDE THE COURT WITH POLICE, WHO HAD AT LEAST THREE GUARD DOGS AND USED THEM. PRESS REPORTS THAT THREE YOUNG WHITES ATTENDING COURT SESSION WERE BRIEFLY DETAINED. ALL THREE WERE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, ONE THE SON OF CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE OFFICIAL THEO KOTZE. THEY WERE RELEASED AFTER QUESTIONING. ON THE STREET OUTSIDE THE COURT, POLICE WERE KEPT BUSY TRYING TO CONTROL STILL LARGER CROWD. ONE REPORTER WAS BITTEN BY A DOG AND ANOTHER HAD HIS CAMERA CONFISCATED AFTER PHOTOGRAPHING INCIDENT BETWEEN POLICE AND ONE OF DETAINEES' WIVES. WHEN SENTENCES WERE PASSED, MYEZA REPORTEDLY STOOD ON DOCK AND SHOUTED "WE CAN LOSE A THOUSAND TIMES, THEY CAN LOSE ONLY ONCE." NINE WERE THEN SWEEP AWAY IN POLICE VANS AS CROWD OUTSIDE RAISED BLACK POWER SALUTES AND CHANGED FREEDOM SONGS.
BOWDLER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COURT DECISIONS, TRIALS, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PRETOR05845
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760469-0965
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761220/aaaaadr.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PRETORIA 5755
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2004 by chengls>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENTENCES FOR SASO NINE
TAGS: PINT, SF, SASO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006